

62-1145

22 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Breakfast Meeting of DCI with Members of the
SOS Club at 0800 on 21 February at the Capitol
Hill Club.**

The Director spoke informally from notes for approximately 12 minutes to 12 members of the SOS Club.

He told them that he had first heard of the President's desire that he become DCI from the President himself. He told about the meeting in Newport where it was agreed with the President that no commitments had been made on reorganizing the Agency on the intelligence community and that none would be undertaken until after Mr. McCone had had a chance to study the situation for himself. It was agreed that Mr. McCone would not act as a special assistant to the President on intelligence matters and he recalled the analogy when he had been Commissioner of Atomic Energy when he had pointed out that he did not want anyone else to serve in this role, thus interrupting the direct relationship between himself and the President.

The DCI said he had made it clear to the President that he held strong views on certain subjects and that he had not changed these views, and that these opinions were contrary to those held by some of the President's closest advisors. The President told Mr. McCone that he was aware of his views and had gone into the whole matter quite thoroughly and wanted to make sure that he would have the benefit of Mr. McCone's opinions along with the opinions of others.

Mr. McCone described the terms of reference of his position as set forth in the President's letter of 16 January, stressing the

attention which he intended to pay to guidance of the American intelligence effort as a whole. He said that his deputy, the identity of whom was still undecided, would be responsible for much of the day-to-day operations of the Agency.

He spoke briefly about the progress of the debriefing of Powers. One of the Congressmen expressed humorous skepticism about the Director's statement about Powers being free to come and go as he liked.

The Director described the bad situation in Laos briefly pointing out that the American decision to try to get a neutral government and a peaceful solution was a position which had been held by President Eisenhower and Secretary Herter. He described the situation in South Vietnam briefly, stressing the importance of the unwillingness of the local people to defend themselves.

He mentioned Soviet pressure on the air corridors into Berlin, with reference to flights by commercial airlines.

There was no time for any questions and the DCI left for the White House at 0840.

Signed

WALTER ELDER
Assistant to the Director

Orig - for DCI

1 - O/DCI (Mr. Elder)

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: <i>John Staran</i>		
ROOM NO. <i>221</i>	BUILDING <i>East</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
REMARKS:		
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